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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "01/12/1987 - Brainard House Dedication " (1987). 1987. 31.
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-5981

January 12, 1987

Local/Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Thirty-three years ago a Charleston attorney was the guiding force behind the creation of the Eastern Illinois University Foundation. Today the building which houses the Foundation bears his name--H Ogden Brainard.

Brainard has worked closely with the Foundation since its founding as legal advisor, as president, and as a member of its Board of Directors. He is currently an honorary member of the Board.

The tribute was paid to Brainard at a testimonial dinner Sunday at Eastern. Dr. Stanley Rives, Eastern's president, presented a plaque which will hang in the Brainard House (1548 Fourth Street) and a framed color photo of the house as a gift to Brainard.

Among special guests at the dinner were Mrs. Nancy Froelich, chairman of the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities; Richard L. Thies, president of the Illinois Bar Association; and Ralph Rhoden, of Ashmore, a student of Brainard when he was a "practice teacher" at Eastern..

A practicing attorney in Charleston for more than 50 years, Brainard graduated from Eastern in 1925. He is a recipient of two high honors from his alma mater--an honorary degree and a distinguished alumnus award.

A plaque was given to Brainard on behalf of Errett Warner, Lawrenceville, an Eastern graduate and a longtime friend of Brainard.

Thies spoke of Brainard's accomplishments while he was president of the Association in 1970-71. He said "I am proud to be part of the same profession as Ogden Brainard."

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add 1

Brainard

Dr. Daniel E. Thornburgh, executive officer of the Foundation, traced the organization's history since its incorporation in 1953. Assets have grown, he said, from less than \$10,000 to more than 3 1/2 million.

Primary aim of the Foundation is "promoting excellence at Eastern" by funding University programs through private donations. The Foundation administers approximately 100 scholarship funds.

Mrs. Froelich said at the dinner that the Foundation has the greatest growth in percentage of assets among the five schools in the Board of Governors system. She praised Brainard for his role in working with the Foundation.

Brainard said "this is an emotional moment." He said "I plead guilty to organizing the Foundation but the executive officers and the members of the Board of Directors have made it go."